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## PAC VETS

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15 April 2016  
The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry  
C/ Mr Rob Hansen  
Parliament House  
Brisbane  
Queensland 4000  
Phone: 07 3553 6660  
By email: [robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hansen,

### RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry

I am an equine veterinarian located at Rosewood, Queensland. I have been in veterinary practice for many years. I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

- The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the Hendra vaccine.
- The development, trials and approval processes of the vaccine
- Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option.

#### Some points

1. Vaccination of horses to protect them and people against the virus is almost a daily activity. Most of my clients [approx. >80%] have complied with the vaccination recommendation.
2. Approx 1 in 50 to 1 in 100 horses have had a vaccine site reaction. Exact numbers have not been tallied, however an example is a small riding school where on average 16 horses have been vaccinated 5 times. The owner reported a reaction in one horse in the 5<sup>th</sup> round i.e. 1 in 80.
3. Another owner of 12-13 horses reports no reactions to the Hendra vaccine, however commented to me that several horses always get a site reaction to the 2in1 Tetanus-Strangles vaccinations.
4. I have one horse that has a moderate to severe site reaction on several occasions when a NSAID is not administered concurrently. It always recovered in 3-4 days.
5. There have been several owners that 'embellish' the description of the site reaction by saying that the horse had been made sick. When questioned, they did not report it back to me at the time or the administering vet [ie from another practice], and also admitted that the horse did not 'go off its food' – an important criteria if in fact sick.
6. The vaccine is like most vaccines used over the years – it does cause some reactions.

**My greatest concern relates to WHS Qld – it has not sold the issues well to the general horse owner population. WHS appears to have created a huge problem through poor communications – creating a divide between some horse owners and vets.**

**This has allowed the 'anti-vaxers' air to create controversy.**

**And concurrently it has created angst amongst vets with respect to compliance and possible compliance oversights – especially with respect the unexpected development when Hendra becomes a DD item.**

Sincerely,

Rod Stephenson BVScMVSc  
Pacific Animal Consulting